of Singapore to India on April 8, 2003. According to this Declaration of Intent, negotiations for the India- Singapore CECA should begin as soon as possible and aim to conclude with the signing of the relevant agreements as early as possible. The CECA, when negotiated and implemented, is expected to be of mutual benefit to both the countries in view of the extent of economic complementarities existing between the two countries.

Steps to increase Exports

3117. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite best and serious efforts, exports still constitute only a small percentage compared to other developed countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase India's share in the World market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) India's export share in the World merchandise exports is growing continuously. In 1992-93 India's share of World merchandise exports was only 0.41%, as per WTO report. This increased to 0.67% in 2000 and 0.7% in 2001.

(c) A medium term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the Tenth plan period (2002—07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of achieving 1% share in World exports. In line with this strategy, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme, introducing "Focus Africa" programme, etc. In the Exim Policy 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's share in World exports.

WTO Ministerial Summit at Cancun

3118. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next WTO Ministerial Summit is due to meet at Cancun and if so, when;